

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 134

Introduced by Assembly Member DeSaulnier

April 29, 2008

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 134—Relative to Legislative Task Force on Summer and Intersession Enrichment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 134, as introduced, DeSaulnier. Legislative Task Force on Summer and Intersession Enrichment.

This measure would establish the Legislative Task Force on Summer and Intersession Enrichment, consisting of specified members. The measure would require the task force to take various actions related to studying ways to provide summer enrichment and wellness programs to low-income children, as provided.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, All children need and deserve safe, enriching, and
2 fun activities during the summer months; and
3 WHEREAS, Summer vacation should be a time for children to
4 visit new places, to swim and play outside, and to learn new skills.
5 For many California children, though, summertime means long
6 days inside or out on the streets, a lack of supervised activity, no
7 nutritious food, and little exercise. In addition, research finds that
8 over the summer, many children lose some of the academic gains
9 they made over the previous school year; and
10 WHEREAS, Many children in California rely on their schools
11 for nutritious meals and physical activity, as well as academics.
12 Unfortunately, most of this good programming comes to an end

1 in June, with the end of the school year, or at the end of a session
2 in year-round school. Without active recreational activities and
3 healthy food, many children will continue on the road to obesity,
4 leading to an increased risk for becoming obese adults and for
5 developing chronic, serious, and costly medical problems, such as
6 diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers. Without engaging
7 activities and adult supervision and mentorship during the summer
8 months, many children will be in unsafe situations, and some will
9 be more likely to engage in criminal behavior; and

10 WHEREAS, Obesity and overweight can be consequences of
11 a lack of nutritious food and lack of organized physical activity in
12 the summertime. A recent study of children in kindergarten and
13 first grade found that the average body mass index grew twice as
14 fast during summer vacation as during the school year. Many
15 children (over 70 percent of nutritionally needy children in the
16 state) lack access to nutritious meals when schools are closed; and

17 WHEREAS, Children and youth without supervised summer
18 activities are vulnerable to alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, to
19 criminal behavior (as victims and perpetrators), and to injury and
20 other safety concerns; and

21 WHEREAS, All children experience summer learning losses
22 of approximately a loss of 2.6 months of math, when they do not
23 have educational activities during the summer. Low-income
24 children are disproportionately affected and experience greater
25 summer learning losses than higher income children, leading to
26 cumulative learning loss for lower income children over time;
27 now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislative Task Force on Summer
30 and Intersession Enrichment is hereby established, which shall
31 consist of 15 members, designated as follows:

32 (a) The Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health, or his or
33 her designee.

34 (b) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Health, or his or her
35 designee.

36 (c) Two Members of the Assembly, appointed by the Speaker
37 of the Assembly.

38 (d) Two Members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate
39 Committee on Rules.

1 (e) Six members of the public, with three members appointed
2 by the Speaker of the Assembly, and three members appointed by
3 the Senate Committee on Rules. These members shall be selected
4 to reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of California.

5 (f) The Governor shall be invited to appoint two members, one
6 of whom shall be the State Public Health Officer, or his or her
7 designee.

8 (g) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be invited to
9 appoint one member who shall be an employee of the Department
10 of Education with relevant policy experience; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the task force is authorized to use existing
12 resources to support its activities, and should be allowed to solicit
13 funding from public and private foundations, and make use of
14 available federal funds; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the task force shall study ways to provide a
16 summer enrichment and wellness program to low-income children,
17 including ways to leverage health insurance programs and health
18 care services to support the program and shall assess the cost of
19 the program; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the task force further shall study ways for the
21 program to achieve the following objectives:

22 (a) To promote good health and to combat obesity by increasing
23 education and awareness of the benefits of good nutrition and
24 regular physical exercise and activity.

25 (b) To provide safe, supervised places for kids to be during the
26 summer months.

27 (c) To provide enrichment activities and experiential learning
28 that complement the school year curriculum, but offer other
29 opportunities not found in school.

30 (d) To prevent summer learning loss among California's
31 children; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.